

Jobs Picture – April 2010

Employment and Unemployment Stats at a Glance

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| Official unemployment rate | 9.9 percent |
| "Real" unemployment rate | 17.1 percent |
| Number unemployed | 15.3 million |
| Average duration of unemployment | 33 weeks |
| Jobs Deficit: jobs needed for full-employment | 11.3 million |
| Job growth in April | 290,000 |

"Real" unemployment includes people working part-time for economic reasons and workers who have searched for work and are available to work but are no longer considered officially unemployed. All figures are adjusted for seasonal variation.

- Employers added 290,000 jobs in April following the addition of 230,000 jobs in March (revised up from 162,000 as originally reported). To put that number in perspective, consider that to get back to full-employment from a jobs deficit of 11.3 million jobs would require about 300,000 new jobs every month for 5 years.
- With workers feeling more encouraged about finding work, the labor force grew in April sending the unemployment rate up to 9.9% from 9.7% despite the increase in hiring. This pattern is typical in the early stages of labor market recovery and can be seen as a positive rather than a negative.
- Employment growth was spread across a variety of industries including manufacturing, construction, health care and temporary help services.
- Even though the labor market seems to have turned the corner, long-term unemployment continues to be a problem. In April, the average duration of unemployment increased to 33 weeks from 31.2 weeks in March and 21.8 weeks in April 2009. Driving these long spells of unemployment is an unprecedented percentage of workers going without work for the better part of a year. In April, 45.9% of unemployed workers had been without a job for at least 6 months, up from 27.5% in April 2009.

For the full employment situation release, go to <http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.toc.htm>
Next update: Friday, June 4, 2010